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 RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 2005
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USINFO FOR P/RM, P/P, P/FN, P/FW, B/BXN/E
 STATE FOR NEA/PAB
 MACDILL FOR POLAD AND USIA ADVISER BRIAN BELL

E.O. 12356: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION DEC. 1, 2

SUMMARY: CODEL NUNN'S PRESSCON ASSURING SECURITY
 ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN; PRESIDENT ZIA'S ANNOUNCEMENT
 OF HIS REFERENDUM PLAN, AND THE INCREASING GUERILLA
 ACTIVITIES IN SRI LANKA DOMINATED SUNDAY, WEEKEND
 MEDIA HEADLINES. SEVERAL EDITS COMMENDED CODEL NUNNS
 UNDERSTANDING OF PAK SECURITY PROBLEMS AND ASSURANCE
 OF CONTINUED ASSISTANCE. END SUMMARY.

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CODEL NUNN'S VISIT

ALL MAJOR DAILIES FRIDAY LEAD WITH THE PRESSCON OF
 SENATOR NUNN'S DELEGATION. IDENTICAL LEADS IN DAWN,
 PAKTIMES, JANG AND NAWA-I-WAQT EMPHASIZED SENATOR
 NUNN'S REMARK THAT U.S. WILL SUPPORT PAKISTAN TO
 IMPROVE ITS DEFENCES TO DETER THREAT TO ITS
 SECURITY. OTHER SUBJECTS COVERED BY THE MAJOR
 DAILIES INCLUDED DELEGATION'S CONDEMNATION OF SOVIET
 ATROCITIES IN AFGHANISTAN, APPRECIATION OF
 PAKISTAN'S ECONOMIC
 GROWTH, SATISFACTION OVER PRESIDENT ZIA'S ASSURANCES
 THAT PAKISTAN WILL NOT MAKE NUCLEAR WEAPONS,
 EXPRESSION OF HOPE FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF INDO-PAK
 TIES AND INDICATION ABOUT PAK ELECTIONS IN SPRING.

DAILY MUSLIM WAS EXCEPTION IN PLAYING SEN. GLENN'S
 PLEA TO PAKISTAN TO TAKE LEAD IN SIGNING THE NPT, AND
 SEN. NUNN'S OBSERVATION THAT INDIA AND PAKISTAN FACED
 JOINT SECURITY PROBLEM IN VIEW OF THE SOVIET PRESENCE

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IN AFGHANISTAN.

HEADLINE TREATMENT OF THE PRESSCON THROUGHOUT
POSITIVE. FOLLOWING ARE MAJOR HEADLINES RUNNING FROM
TWO TO SIX COLUMNS.

DAWN: "U.S. TO BOOST PAKISTAN'S DEFENCE CAPACITY"

PAKTIMES: "U.S. TO HELP IMPROVE PAK DEFENCES -- NUNN"

JANG: "U.S. WILL CONTINUE TO ASSIST IN THE EFFORTS
TO STRENGTHEN PAK SECURITY -- WE ARE PLEASED WITH
PRESIDENT ZIA'S DETERMINATION TO HOLD ELECTIONS."

MUSLIM: "U.S. SENATORS URGE ISLAMABAD TO SIGN NPT;
INDIA PAKISTAN FACE JOINT SECURITY PROBLEM."

AN EXCLUSIVE REPORT IN JANG QUOTING "DIPLOMATIC
SOURCES" SAYS THAT CODEL NUNN'S TALKS WITH PAK
LEADERS HAVE BEEN "VERY SUCCESSFUL", AND THAT THESE
TALKS "HAVE PAVED THE WAY FOR INCREASE IN THE U.S.
ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE IN THE FUTURE."

PTV AND RADIO PAKISTAN BROADCAST MAJOR PORTIONS OF
RECORDING OF CODEL NUNN PRESSCON.

EDITORIAL: SENATOR'S PRESSCON GENERALLY EVOKED
FAVORABLE EDITORIAL COMMENTS. PRO-GOVT. PAKTIMES
EDIT "A USEFUL CONTACT" SAYS:

QUOTE ...THE FACT THAT THE FOUR SENATORS WHO WENT
BACK WITH A FUND OF GOODWILL FOR PAKISTAN AND A
BETTER AND FULLER APPRECIATION OF ITS DEFENCE,
NUCLEAR AND ECONOMIC POLICIES AND NEEDS BELONG TO THE
DEMOCRATIC PARTY IS PARTICULARLY GRATIFYING BECAUSE
THE DEMOCRATS HAVE TRADITIONALLY BEEN NOT AS
APPRECIATIVE OF PAKISTAN'S FOREIGN POLICY CONCERNS AS
THE REPUBLICANS. LEARNING FROM THE EXAMPLE, MORE
SUCH VISITS OF U.S. CONGRESSMEN SHOULD BE ORGANIZED
TO PROVIDE THEM AN OPPORTUNITY TO KNOW OF PAKISTAN
AND ITS PROBLEMS AT FIRST HAND. THIS WOULD GO A LONG
WAY TOWARDS NEUTRALIZING THE ADVERSE PROPAGANDA OF
THE ANTI-PAKISTAN LOBBY IN THE U.S-

NAWAI-I-WAQT WELCOMES CODEL'S ASSURANCE TO HELP DETER

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THREATS TO PAK SECURITY SAYING "FROM THE STANDPOINT
OF PAKISTAN IT IS HIGHLY IMPORTANT THAT THE
CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION HAS NOT ONLY EXPRESSED
SYMPATHETIC VIEWS ABOUT PAK DEFENSE NEEDS BUT HAVE
ALSO UNDERTAKEN TO EXPLAIN TO THE INDIANS THAT
PAKISTAN DOES NOT WANT WAR BUT WAS ONLY INTERESTED TO
STRENGTHEN ITS SECURITY AGAINST FEARS OF EXTERNAL
THREATS ...WE HOPE THAT THE SENATORS WILL STICK TO
THEIR ASSURANCE OF CONTINUED ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN
AFTER THEY HAVE RETURNED TO THEIR POST."

JANG EDITORIAL ALSO FOCUSED ON NUNN'S STATEMENT ON
SECURITY. IT SAYS QUOTE OFFICIAL CIRCLES IN PAKISTAN
CAN DRAW REAL SATISFACTION FROM THE OBSERVATIONS MADE

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BY THE AMERICAN LAW-MAKERS AT THE TIME OF THEIR DEPARTURE BECAUSE THEY HAVE GIVEN A VERY CLEAR INDICATION OF UNDERSTANDING AND SYMPATHY WITH OUR POINT OF VIEW ON SECURITY, NUCLEAR PROGRAM AND INDO-PAK RELATIONS. THE FACT THAT THE SENATORS BELONGED TO DEMOCRATIC PARTY IS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT AS IT TENDS TO DEMONSTRATE THAT BOTH POLITICAL PARTIES OF THE U.S. ARE INTERESTED IN PAK DEFENSE AND STABILITY."

RIGHT WING JASARAT DISAGREED WITH SEN. GLENN'S ARGUMENT THAT PAKISTAN SHOULD TAKE A LEAD IN SIGNING THE NPT AND ACCUSED U.S. OF BEING PARTISAN IN THIS MATTER.

GEN. VESSEY'S VISIT

WRITING ABOUT GEN. VESSEY'S UPCOMING VISIT TO PAKISTAN MUSLIM COLUMNIST KHALID AKHTAR SAYS:

QUOTE ...WHAT HAS ADDED EXTRA IMPORTANCE TO GEN. VESSEY'S PROPOSED VISIT IS THAT IT WILL BE TAKING PLACE IN THE WAKE OF 'CONCERN' VOICED BY AMERICAN CIRCLES HERE OVER THE REPORTED CONSTRUCTION OF TWO NEW AIRFIELDS IN AFGHANISTAN (THE REPORT IS BASED ON U.S. INFORMATION) WHICH, ACCORDING TO AMERICAN SOURCES, WILL GREATLY SHORTEN THE 'FLYING DISTANCE TO THE GULF.' IF THE REPORT IS CORRECT THE U.S. WILL NATURALLY ENDEAVOR TO COUNTER THE DEVELOPMENT WITH EQUALLY EFFECTIVE MEASURES. UNQUOTE.

- PAK DEVELOPMENTS

FRONTPAGES IN THE SUNDAY ISSUES OF ALL MAJOR DAILIES ARE DOMINATED BY PRESIDENT ZIA'S SPEECH ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS PLAGUING PAK POLITICAL PROCESS, AND HIS ANNOUNCEMENT OF DECISION TO HOLD REFERENDUM ON DEC.19 TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT PEOPLE WANT CONTINUATION OF THE ISLAMIZATION PROCESS, ZIA AS PRESIDENT FOR FIVE YEARS MORE, AND HOLDING OF PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS UNDER ZIA'S PLAN OF AUGUST 12, 1983.

A MUSLIM EDIT PEGGED ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY HELD HERE, PLEADS FOR TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY FROM NORTH TO SOUTH. IT SAYS:

QUOTE ...THE SHARE OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD IN TOTAL GLOBAL INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION CONTINUES TO BE INSIGNIFICANT. THE MANNER IN WHICH MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WERE DISCOURAGED TO DEVELOP THEIR OWN CAPITAL GOODS INDUSTRY, PARTICULARLY STEEL, IS A WELL-KNOWN STORY. THE SAME TACTICS ARE NOW BEING USED TO DENY THEM AN UNFETTERED ACCESS TO NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY, EVEN THOUGH FOR MANY OF THEM, INCLUDING PAKISTAN, ITS EARLY ACQUISITION IS CRUCIAL FOR SOLVING THE PRESSING PROBLEM OF ENERGY SHORTAGE. UNQUOTE. JOHNSON

END OF MESSAGE

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